

Iowa Capitol Planning Commission Minutes

July 15, 2020
(1:00 – 2:10 p.m.)
Electronic Meeting

This electronic meeting of the Capitol Planning Commission was held in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.8 entitled “Electronic Meetings.” The Code states that a governmental body may conduct a meeting by electronic means only if circumstances are such that a meeting in person is impossible or impractical and access is provided to the public. Due to COVID-19, an in person meeting was not possible for the quarterly meeting of the Capitol Planning Commission. Meeting notices were posted on the State of Iowa Public Meeting Calendar and Commission's website for interested members of the public to join the virtual meeting via Google Meet or by telephone conference call.

Members Present

William Dikis, Chair
Susan Elgin, Vice Chair
Carol Grant
Annette Renaud

Brett Seelman
Representative Bruce Hunter
Senator Janet Petersen

Members Absent

Matt Anderson
Interim DAS Director Paul Trombino III, Secretary

Representative Jacob Bossman
Senator Craig Johnson

Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Staff Present for All or Portions of the Meeting

Dave Heuton
Kris May
Tami Wiencek

Charlee Cross
Barb Bendon
Suzy Trotter

Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting

Mark Willemssen, Legislative Facilities
Joni Arnett, Legislative Services Agency
Chris Ubben, Legislative Services Agency
Russ Trimble, Iowa Senate
Cheryl Peterson, Department of Cultural Affairs
Scotney Fenton, RDG Planning & Design
Jim MacRae, Design Workshop
Erin McDonald, Design Workshop

Adam Carreau, Design Workshop
Ryan Moffatt, City of Des Moines
Erik Brawner, City of Des Moines
Erin Olson-Douglas, City of Des Moines
Tim Rypma, Rypma Properties
Jon Lewton – Ryan Companies
Paul Hays - JSC Properties

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Dikis.

Meeting Overview and Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Annette Renaud made a motion to approve the agenda. Carol Grant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2020

MOTION: Carol Grant made a motion to approve the minutes. Brett Seelman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation: City of Des Moines Economic Development – East Village Zoning Code Changes

Ryan Moffatt, City of Des Moines Economic Development Coordinator, with Erin Olson-Douglas, Economic Development Director, along with City of Des Moines Information Technology team presented a 3-D computer modeling program to analyze the height of buildings and viewsheds throughout Downtown Des Moines. City staff is currently working with a master developer for the redevelopment of a 39 acre area, tagged as the Market District of the Historic East Village. The Market District is south of Court Ave. to E. MLK Jr. Parkway and east of the Des Moines River to E. 14th St. The City's presentation focused on the aforementioned area and the analysis for the building height to preserve the significant viewshed corridors to the State Capitol. The City of Des Moines' intent was to provide an overview of the redevelopment project and request the Capitol Planning Commission's input regarding their efforts with the 3-D computer modeling to protect the corridors per the City of Des Moines Zoning Ordinance, Capitol Dominance Overlay Districts.

Jim MacRae, Principal with Design Workshop, presented the plan to renew the area that will become the Market District. The proposed will include retail and recreational areas, as well as a water detention area to the west called Stormwater Park with a corridor through the area to the east side called Riverfront Park. Erin McDonald with Design Workshop continued the presentation with photos of the current viewshed from Principal Park to the State Capitol, showing the obscured viewshed due to the tree line and an existing building. Using the current view as the base line for the future building heights, Design Workshop created an illustration of buildings heights to frame the view of State Capitol from Principal Park.

Chair Dikis requested the view of the State Capitol Building maintains a portion of the building verse a view of the cornice to the top of the dome.

Committee Updates

Master Plan

Annette Renaud reported the Master Plan consists of five phases for the future development of the Complex, with Phase One goals expiring at the end of 2020. Commission members agreed with Annette's requested to pause on a full undertaking to evaluate the concluding Phase One and readjust the next four phases. The Master Plan Committee will continue an annual review to update the Master Plan as changes occur on the Complex.

Site Features

Site Features Policy and Application

Carol Grant reported the Committee revised Site Features Policy and Application dated 2014. Carol summarized the substantive changes to the documents, which included; additional language to require the sponsor to identify the professional designers, installers or contractors working on the project, disclosure of donations to be included in the total cost when calculating the required 15% endowment, and clear language regarding the listing of donors on the memorial/monument. Additionally, Section 5 Application Review of the Policy was updated to reflect the current internal process by DAS once an application is received.

MOTION: Carol Grant made a motion to approve the revisions to the Site Features Policy and Application as presented. Brett Seelman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Monument Conservation Fund

Carol Grant presented the Monument Conservation Fund Report dated June 30, 2020. The Monument Conservation Fund has received \$60,541.54 of the \$100,000 of the legislative appropriation. The total fund balance is \$181,624.60.

K9 Memorial

Carol Grant reported Lt. Kock notified the Committee that the K9 Memorial is on hold and will not be installed in 2020.

National Votes for Women Trail Marker: Mary Jane Whitely Coggeshall

Carol Grant recapped the January 8, 2020, Commissions approved motion, empowering the Site Features Committee to work with the applicant for a mutually agreed upon location and marker inscription. Carol Reported the Committee was informed by the National Votes for Women Trail, the proposed marker inscription would include "William G. Pomeroy Foundation" and the year, 2020, at the bottom of the marker as the credit line for financially sponsoring the marker. Pursuant to Iowa Code 8A.108, acknowledgement of donors unless specifically authorized is prohibited. Local supporter of the marker have raised the funds to purchase a similar marker with the following Committee approved inscription, "VOTES FOR WOMEN, MARY J. COGGESHALL 1836-1911, WRITER, ORATOR & LEADER DIRECTED & INSPIRED WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN IOWA. LOBBIED HERE FOR THE VOTE." The marker will be placed in current landscaping south of the Buffalo Fountain in the West Mall.

Staff Reports/Project Updates

Legislative Update

Tami Wiencek reported the Iowa Legislature reconvened on June 3 and adjourned on June 14. Tami highlighted the appropriations for Statewide Major Maintenance, the Vacant State Buildings Demolition Fund, and Security Cameras on the Capitol Complex in House File 2642, relating to Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, signed by Governor Reynolds.

Construction Update

Charlee Cross reported the Department of Natural Resources bioretention cell project in the West Capitol Terrace for stormwater management is nearing completion. Sidewalk and pavement improvements began in the spring. Parking Lot #9 north of the Wallace Building is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer. The City of Des Moines is installing a flashing crosswalk on Pennsylvania Ave for pedestrians crossing from the northwest corner of the Wallace Building to the Parking Structure.

Capitol Complex Update

Suzy Trotter reported the Capitol Complex Farmers Market and Mobile Food Trucks have returned to the Capitol Complex.

Other Business

Chair Dikis addressed the recent events regarding the public request to remove specific monuments from public property. Chair Dikis recommended reading the July 7, 2020, Wall Street Journal article titled *Resolving a Monumental Problem*. The writer proposed, instead of submitting to the demands for removal of specific monuments, to allow groups to provide educational value to the monument by offering an additional explanation of other points of view at the site of the monument.

Upcoming Meeting:

- October 21, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.